

Fire Investigator Course

Exercise - Recognizing Burn Patterns

Purpose – Candidate's ability to recognize burn patterns as part of the scene examination in a fire investigation. Per NFPA 921, chapter 6

Setup – Exercise is performed by each student indivisibly. Photos of burn patterns from fire investigations shall be shown to each student. Give each student three photos to determine:

- Location of burn pattern
- Type of burn pattern
- Fire spread (movement) patterns
- Point of origin
- Possible ignition source
- Identify any unusual burn patterns
- Identify any smoke or heat layering
- Identify possible fuel source at point of origin

Student shall point to items and give details on what they have identified.

Instructor – present three photos to each student in front of class. Student shall identify the seven items listed above. Alternate students after each photo. Students shall:

- Correctly identify
 - burn patterns
 - Fire spread patterns
 - Point of origin
 - Possible ignition source
 - Possible fuel source
 - Any smoke or heat layering
 - Any unusual burn patterns

Instructor shall record student's results for the exercise. Instructor needs to collect enough photos showing burn patterns for each student for the exercise. Multiple photos may be used to show burn patterns at an incident.